

Kentucky's College/Career Readiness Plan

Among the strategies Kentucky has developed to support schools and districts in improving college/career readiness:

Collection and Use of Data: Provides early identification of students who are “off track” so that additional interventions/ supports can be put in place to help them stay in school and graduate.

Course and Assessment Alignment: Courses are aligned to the new rigorous standards and taught using highly effective and engaging instructional and assessment tasks (including end-of-course assessments in English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History).

Targeted Interventions: Students who fall short of readiness benchmarks on EXPLORE (8th grade) or ACT (11th grade) participate in bridge or transitional programs to support standards mastery and reduce remediation in high school/college.

Acceleration: AdvanceKentucky provides all students the opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses and earn college credit for qualifying scores on AP exams.

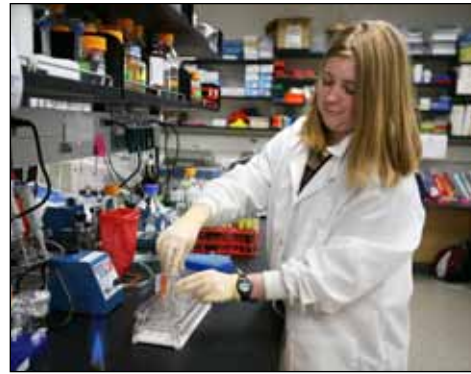
Project Lead the Way (PLTW) cultivates student interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) areas and provides the opportunity to earn college credit through the successful completion of PLTW assessments.

Academic and Career Advising: A comprehensive advising program and use of the Individual Learning Plan (in grades 6 through 12) supports students in their decision-making and maximizes their preparation for future goals.

Innovative Pathways to Student Success: Provides alternative programming such as Early College to meet student needs that cannot be addressed in a traditional classroom setting.

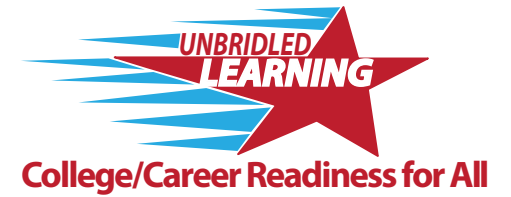
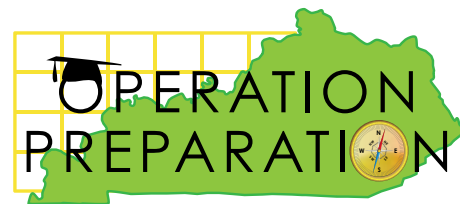
Career Readiness Pathways: Career-themed academies provide a rigorous college preparatory curriculum with opportunities for students to earn industry certification and obtain college credit.

District 180: Provides supports and raises expectations for students in the state's lowest-achieving schools.



How you can support College/Career Readiness for ALL:

- Support more rigorous standards in spite of the potential for lower student performance in the short term.
- Advocate for excellent schools and teachers.
- Support adequate funding for public education in Kentucky.
- Encourage student(s) to take rigorous coursework and to plan for college/career by using the Individual Learning Plan.
- Get involved in our schools – Operation Preparation College/Career Advising Week is one way – learn more at www.operationpreparation.com.



Kentucky's Plan for College/Career Readiness

“All Kentucky students deserve a world-class education that prepares them for college, careers for life.”

— Terry Holliday, Ph.D.
Kentucky Education Commissioner



www.education.ky.gov
December 2011

What is College/Career Readiness?

It's the expectation that ALL Kentucky children will receive an education that prepares them for a successful future.

College Ready: The level of preparation a first-time college student needs in order to succeed in a credit-bearing course at a postsecondary institution. Succeed is defined as completing entry-level courses at a level of understanding and proficiency that prepares the student for subsequent courses.



Career Ready: The level of preparation a high school graduate needs in order to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification or entry into the workforce. According to the Association of Career and Technical Education, career readiness includes core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities; employability skills, such as critical thinking and responsibility, that are essential in any career area; and technical, job-specific skills related to a specific career pathway.



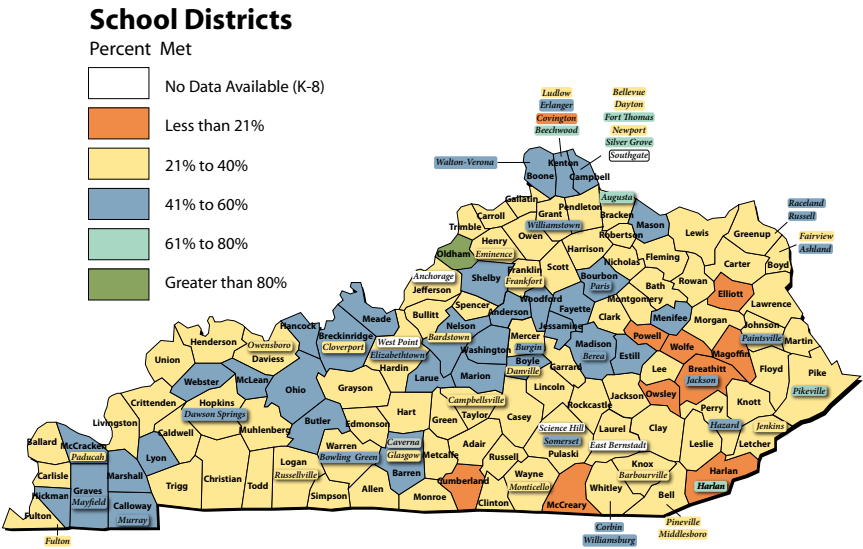
Why is College/Career Readiness important?

Over the past three decades, the number of jobs in the U.S. economy that require postsecondary education or training has surged. More than 63% of jobs in 2018 will require some postsecondary education/training.

For Kentucky to compete in a global economy, our workforce must be educated and have the skills employers demand. A more educated workforce means better jobs paying higher wages, lower unemployment and a higher standard of living for all Kentuckians.

2011 College/Career Readiness*

Currently only 38% of high school graduates in Kentucky are considered college/career ready.



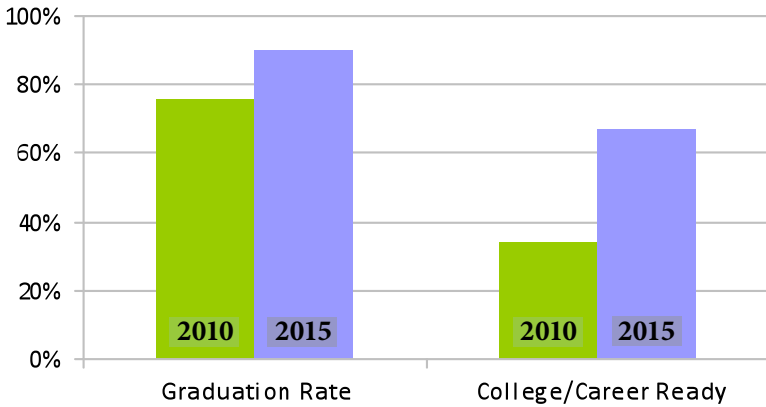
- *College/Career Readiness is determined by:
- the number of students who meet Council on Postsecondary Education systemwide benchmarks for Reading (20), English (18) and Mathematics (19) on the ACT
 - the number of students who pass the COMPASS or KYOTE college placement tests
 - the number of students meeting career-ready academic (ASVAB or ACT WorkKeys) or technical (KOSSA or industry-recognized career certificate) benchmarks

What are we doing to improve College/Career Readiness?

To be college/career ready, students must stay in school, graduate and acquire the pre-requisite knowledge and skills they'll need for college/career.

So, the Kentucky Department of Education has set target goals:

- Increase the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate from 76% in 2010 to 90% by 2015.
- Increase the percentage of students who are college/career ready from 34% in 2010 to 67% by 2015.



Every school district in Kentucky has signed a pledge, the Commonwealth Commitment, to increase the college/career readiness rate of its high school graduates by 50% by 2015.